AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all pending claims, *i.e.*, claims 1-4, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein and please add new claims 5-24 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

5. (new) A device for producing expanded flat material, comprising:

a first conveyor structured and arranged to guide a first lateral edge of a web vertically upward with respect to a horizontal plane; and

a second conveyor structured and arranged to guide a second lateral edge of the web vertically downward with respect to the horizontal plane,

wherein a spacing between the first conveyor and the second conveyor increases in a direction of advancement of the web.

6. (new) The device of claim 5, further comprising:

a cutting device;

a coiling device; and

an expanding device that includes the first conveyor and the second conveyor.

7. (new) The device of claim 6, wherein the web comprises a foil web.

8. (new) The device of claim 6, wherein the cutting device comprises:

cutting rollers supported one above the other;

upper smooth cutting knives;

lower cutting knives; and

recesses,

wherein the web is structured and arranged to be guided through the cutting rollers.

9. (new) The device of claim 5, wherein:
the first conveyor comprises a first toothed belt pair, and
the second conveyor comprises a second toothed belt pair.

10. (new) The device of claim 9, wherein the first toothed belt pair and the second toothed belt pair are guided over deflection rollers.

11. (new) The device of claim 10, wherein at least one of the deflection rollers comprises a drive roller.

12. (new) The device of claim 9, wherein:
the first toothed belt pair holds the first lateral edge using first teeth, and
the second toothed belt pair holds the second lateral edge using second teeth.

13. (new) The device of claim 9, further comprising:
a first sliding block guiding the first toothed belt pair; and
a second sliding block guiding the second toothed belt pair.

14. (new) The device of claim 13, wherein the first sliding block is arranged in an interior area of the first toothed belt pair and the second toothed belt pair.

15. (new) The device of claim 13, wherein:
the web comprises a foil web, and
as the spacing between the first conveyor and the second conveyor increases in the direction of advancement, the foil web is expandable across a diagonal extending from the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge.

16. (new) The device of claim 13, wherein the first sliding block and the second sliding block comprise hinges.

17. (new) The device of claim 16, wherein the first sliding block and the second sliding block are adjustable in height.

18. (new) The device of claim 13, wherein the first sliding block is vertically displaceable to inside the first toothed belt pair.

19. (new) The device of claim 13, wherein:

the first sliding block comprises a first flat-plane sliding surface,

the second sliding block comprises a second flat-plane sliding surface, and

the first flat-plane sliding surface and the second flat-plane sliding surface are structured and arranged to expand the web by gradually increasing the spacing between the first conveyor and the second conveyor in the direction of advancement.

20. (new) The device of claim 13, wherein:

the first sliding block comprises a first sliding surface having a first radius,

the second sliding block comprises a second sliding surface having a second radius, and

the first sliding surface and the second sliding surface are structured and arranged to expand the web by gradually increasing the spacing between the first conveyor and the second conveyor in the direction of advancement.

21. (new) An apparatus, comprising:

a first belt pair structured and arranged to hold a first lateral edge of a web between first teeth;

a second belt pair structured and arranged to hold a second lateral edge of the web between second teeth;

first deflection rollers and a first slide block that guide the first belt pair to a vertically upward position with respect to a horizontal starting position; and

second deflection rollers and a second slide block that guide the second belt pair to a vertically downward position with respect to the horizontal starting position,

wherein the web is expandable between the first lateral edge and the second lateral edge along a diagonal between the vertically upward position and the vertically downward position.

22. (new) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the web comprises a foil web, and the apparatus further comprises:

cutting rollers having cutting knives for passing the foil web through to form cuts in the foil web;

at least one drive element driving the first belt pair and the second belt pair; and

a coiling device.

23. (new) A method, comprising:

gripping a first lateral edge of a foil web;

gripping a second lateral edge of the foil web;

expanding the foil web between the first lateral edge and the second lateral edge by guiding the first lateral edge vertically upward from a horizontal starting plane while guiding the second lateral edge vertically downward from the horizontal starting plane.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

cutting portions of the foil web between the first lateral edge and the second lateral edge before the expanding; and

coiling the foil web after the expanding.